Implementation of Molasses Decontrol Order by the States

1335. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's policy of decontrol of molasses announced more than a month ago is not being implemented by many States on the grounds that they have their own policy on molasses;

(b) if so, whether Government have urged the State Governments not to ignore the Centre's decision in this regard; and

(c) what is the present situation and in what manner Government propose to enforce its molasses decontrol order particularly in the States of U.P., Bihar, Punjab and Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Most State Governments are in the process of adjusting their own laws and regulations to conform with the policy of decontrol of molasses. No State Government has taken the stand that they will not implement the decontrol policy. In certain States where there are State laws relating to control of molases, there are certain legal issues that need to be sorted out.

Price rise of molasses

1336. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of molasses has sharply risen after decontrol;

(b) the various downstream products of molasses that have been adversely affected;

(c) whether it is a fact that illicit liquor production has increased; and

(d) whether Indian-made foreign liquor has found a good foreign market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) There are reports indicating that there has been an increase in the price of molasses and a corresponding increase in the price of the principal downstream product, i.e. Ethyl Alcohol.

(c) and (d) No such report has come to the Government.

Post of Drug Advisor

1337. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Drug Advisor is lying vacant since last few years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no senior technical officer and the only junior technical officers are examining all issues concerning drugs; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to fill the post of Advisor (Drugs)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The post of Adviser (PI) has been vacant for some time. The vacancy was circulated in accordance with the recruitment rules. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) was able to recommend a suitable candidate, who subsequently withdrew his candidature.

The technical officers examining issues concerning drugs cannot be said to be junior technical officers.

Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Madras

1338. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far to revamp the fertilizer complex of Madras Fertilizers Limited, Madras; and